



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/554,394 | 10/24/2005 | Antonio Marchetti | 2508-1023 | 2759 |
| 466 | 7590 | 01/25/2008 | EXAMINER | |
| YOUNG & THOMPSON | | | LAGMAN, FREDERICK LYNDON | |
| 745 SOUTH 23RD STREET | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2ND FLOOR | | | 3672 | |
| ARLINGTON, VA 22202 | | | MAIL DATE | |
| | | | DELIVERY MODE | |
| | | | 01/25/2008 | |
| | | | PAPER | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/554,394 | Applicant(s) MARCHETTI, ANTONIO |
| | Examiner Frederick L. Lagman | Art Unit 3672 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/24/05

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the relationship between the double closing system with an outer or inner cylindrical element and the pipeline and other structural elements recited after the "characterized in"

5. Claim 1, line 1-2, the recitation of "the waters" and "the exploitation of the water energy" lack proper antecedent basis; line 4, the recitation of "I" is confusing and appears incorrect; line 5, "its" should be replaced by which "its" refers; line 9, "realized" appears to be improper; line 10, the recitation of "may be" is indefinite, it is unclear if the elements/structure with respect to "may be" are included; and line 12, the "--" (dashes) should be removed.

6. Claim 3, lines 1-2, the recitation of "the pre-stressed or turned kind" lacks proper antecedent basis, furthermore, such recitation is confusing, it is not readily ascertainable as to what "the pre-stress or turned kind" is.

7. Claim 4, line 2, "realizing" appears to be improper; line 3, the recitation of "the fix element" lacks proper antecedent basis; line 4, the recitation of "the movable element" lacks proper antecedent basis; and line 4, the recitation of "the closing" lacks proper antecedent basis.

8. Claim 7, line 3, the recitation of "the outlet" lacks proper antecedent basis.

9. Claim 8, line 1, "it" is confusing, it is not readily ascertainable as to what "it" is, "it" should be replaced by that which "it" refers.

10. Claim 10, line 1, "it" is confusing, it is not readily ascertainable as to what "it" is, "it" should be replaced by that which "it" refers.

11. Claim 12, the recitation of "may be" renders the claim indefinite, it is unclear as to whether or not such limitations are included i.e. may be or may be not.

12. Claim 13, line 2, the recitation of "the fix part" lacks proper antecedent basis, line 3, the recitation of "the movable part" lacks proper antecedent basis

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

14. Insofar as understood, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German reference #248,287 to Muller.

15. Insofar as understood, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katona #1,756,596.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick L. Lagman whose telephone number is 571-272-7043. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 5:30AM-2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Frederick L. Lagman/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

FLL